

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The writer concludes the meaning of symbols found in Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak*. The symbols are Melinda's tree painting, mirror, and Melinda's lips and mouth condition. They are important because their appearances are consistent in the novel. Those three symbols are used by Anderson to strengthen the salvation from the isolation to be the solid theme.

Tree, in Melinda's painting, is the important symbol because this symbol depicts Melinda's herself. From the symbol, the readers may sense the isolation Melinda has in the story. It can be seen from how Melinda paints the tree in her painting. She cannot paint a decent tree at the beginning as the depiction of how she finds it difficult to deal with the isolation. Later, she finally paints a decent tree as the evidence she escapes from the isolation.

Mirror is also an important symbol because mirror shows the actual condition of Melinda. It shows Melinda is trapped in the isolation while the readers are not aware of it. This symbol connects with Melinda's lips and mouth condition as the last important symbol. It shows the effect of the isolation in Melinda. Thus, by connecting two important symbols, Anderson is succeeded to prove how those two symbols strengthen the salvation from the isolation as the theme.

The writer also concludes the role of the symbols by using new criticism. The three important symbols in Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak*, Melinda's tree painting, mirror, and Melinda's lips and mouth condition, make the salvation from the isolation to be the solid theme. The writer argues Anderson, as the author, cleverly uses those symbols as the way to show the salvation from the isolation as the solid theme in her novel. It can be seen from the analysis of the meaning of the symbols. After the meaning are found and analyzed, the readers may understand how those symbols strengthen the theme of isolation. Thus, it is acceptable to say the solid theme of *Speak* is the salvation from the isolation.



